

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A cutting head for a brush cutter or edge trimmer, the cutting head comprising a passageway for a cutting string having a non-circular cross-section, the passageway extending along an axis between a first opening and a second opening, and at least one curved bearing zone extending between ~~a string outlet region~~ the second opening of said passageway and a peripheral region of the head, wherein the peripheral region of the head is located opposite the first opening with respect to the second opening along the axis defined by the passageway, wherein a surface of the curved bearing zone presents a recessed profile which is suited to the cross-section of the cutting string, in order to retain the cutting string in the recessed profile in its optimal cutting orientation when the string flexes in a direction opposite to the rotation of the head to rest against the curved bearing zone.

25. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to claim 24, wherein the cutting string has a generally square cross-section and the recessed profile of the curved bearing zone presents a V-shaped profile is in the general form of a V.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~A cutting head for a brush cutter, or edge trimmer, the cutting head comprising a passageway for a cutting string~~ A cutting head according to claim 24, ~~wherein the passageway extends along an axis between an opening and [[a]] the string outlet region; at least one curved bearing zone extending between a string outlet region of said passageway and a peripheral region of the head, wherein the~~ second opening string outlet region is spaced farther inwardly from the peripheral region than is the first opening is spaced from a respective peripheral region, ~~and wherein a surface of the curved bearing zone presents a recessed profile which is suited to the cross-section of the cutting string, in order to retain the cutting string in the recessed profile when the string flexes in a direction opposite to the rotation of the head to rest against the curved bearing zone.~~

27. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to claim 24[[1]], wherein the axis of the passageway is inclined relative to a direction perpendicular to the peripheral region of the head.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~A cutting head for a brush cutter, or edge trimmer, the cutting head comprising a passageway for a cutting string and at least one curved bearing zone extending between a string outlet region of said passageway and a peripheral region of the head, wherein a surface of the curved bearing zone presents a recessed profile which is suited to the cross-section of the cutting string, in order to retain the cutting string in the recessed profile when the string flexes in a direction opposite to the rotation of the head to rest against the curved bearing zone, and~~ A cutting head according to claim 24, wherein the string passageway presents a recessed profile identical to the profile of the curved bearing zone.

29. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to claim 24 [[28]], wherein the height of the curved bearing zone is equal to the height of the string passageway.

30. (New) A cutting head according to claim 24, wherein the second opening presents a substantially square cross-section oriented obliquely and wherein the recessed profile of the curved bearing zone is identical to the profile of the second opening.